

HOUSE BILL 12

By Curtiss

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56;
Title 68 and Title 71, relative to prescription drugs.

WHEREAS, I-SaveRx is a prescription drug program implemented by Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich in October 2004, which has since been joined by Wisconsin, Kansas, Missouri and Vermont; and

WHEREAS, I-SaveRx allows all residents of Illinois, Wisconsin, Kansas, Missouri and Vermont to refill prescriptions for one hundred (100) of the most common prescription drugs used to treat chronic illnesses from a network of inspected and approved pharmacies and wholesalers in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand; and

WHEREAS, participants in I-SaveRx save an average of twenty-five percent (25%) to fifty percent (50%) on the cost of medications, and the program includes provisions to ensure the safety and quality of the prescriptions by requiring the inspection and approval of the pharmacies and wholesalers who participate; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee residents also require alternate timely access to safe, high quality and efficacious prescription drugs that are not available in the United States at affordable prices, whether through the I-SaveRx program, some other existing program, or a new program initiated by this state; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited as, the "Prescription Medicine Fair Pricing Act of 2007".

SECTION 2.

(a) The commissioner of finance and administration shall enter into discussions with the member states of I-SaveRx, with appropriate representatives of companies that import Canadian and other international prescription drugs to the United States, or with

other appropriate parties in the commissioner's discretion, in order to establish by January 1, 2008, a memorandum of understanding allowing all Tennessee residents to purchase prescription drugs through the I-SaveRx program or any other similar program, or to establish by January 1, 2008, a new Tennessee international prescription drug cost savings program for Tennessee residents.

(b) The commissioner of health shall convene a working group to develop outreach and promotion tools related to the international prescription drug cost savings program in which the state of Tennessee is participating or which is established by the commissioner of finance and administration.

(c) Members of the working group shall include the commissioner of human services or the commissioner's designee, the executive director of the Tennessee commission on aging and disability or the executive director's designee, and any other appropriate parties within the discretion of the commissioner of health, including interested consumers, advocates, and providers appointed by the commissioner of health.

(d) Activities of the working group shall include developing communication tools such as enrollment forms, explanatory brochures, a website, and promotional magnets and posters; directing outreach and material distribution to all health care providers and relevant health care associations; and mailing international prescription drug cost savings program information directly to all Tennessee residents and, especially, beneficiaries of TennCare and other public programs that include payment for pharmaceuticals.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.